



**JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMA DE MONITORIZAÇÃO DO SISTEMA JUDICIAL**

**Press Release**

**27 August 2012**

**Minister of Justice recommends for JSMP to continue monitoring of the courts and the parliament**

The Minister of Justice, Dionísio Babo, requested for JSMP to continue conducting monitoring of the courts and the National Parliament. This recommendation was made to JSMP when JSMP had an opportunity to meet with the Minister on 27 August 2012 at the Ministry of Justice in Dili.

The meeting was attended by a team from JSMP comprising the Director, the Coordinator of the LRU, the Coordinator of the WJU, the Program Manager of the VSS and the JSMP Media Officer. The Minister of Justice was accompanied by the National Director for Human Rights and Civic Affairs, Celito Cardoso.

*“This meeting was the first step in the relationship between JSMP and the Ministry of Justice to strengthen this institutional relationship into the future”,* said the Executive Director of JSMP, Luis de Oliveira Sampaio.

During this meeting JSMP conveyed a number of concerns that were noted during monitoring conducted at the courts. These concerns included the issue of interpretation, the role of the public defender, the issue of disseminating information to the public, access to the courts and the first amendment to the Law on Private Lawyers and training for private lawyers as well as public access to the trial schedule and agenda of the Court of Appeal.

In response to these concerns the Minister of Justice explained that the Fifth Constitutional Government has three basic philosophies underlining its governance, namely: “Continue,” “Strengthen,” and “Improve”. Therefore, the Minister of Justice held a meeting with the directors from all of the departments within the Ministry of Justice to review the legal products that are still being formulated, such as the Law on Juvenile Justice and the Law on Land and Property, which are a priority for the Ministry of Justice of the Fifth Constitutional Government. In

addition, he added that the ministry will be busy over the next few months dealing with the Rectification of the State Budget.

Before the meeting ended the Minister requested for JSMP to continue its commitment to conduct monitoring at the courts and the parliament and he specifically encouraged the relevant departments within his ministry to strengthen their cooperation with JSMP in the future.

For more information, please contact:

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